

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 H-01
INRE-00 DOEE-00 /106 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/NEP:MAGUHHIN:SK
APPROVED BY OES/NET:LVNOSENZO
T/D - MR. WELCH (DRAFT)
NEA/INS - MR. LANDE (SUBS.)
-----106432 242303Z /13
O 242223Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR HEARINGS

1. SENATOR GLENN PRESIDED AT SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS MAY 24 ON PROPOSED EXPORT OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR REACTORS. NO OTHER SENATORS PRESENT.
 2. SENATOR MCCLURE, AS LEAD WITNESS, TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT (A) STATING HIS VIEW THAT NRC SHOULD HAVE APPROVED IN THE FIRST PLACE AND REFERRAL TO THE PRESIDENT CONTRARY TO INTENT OF LAW AND 18-MONTH NEGOTIATION PERIOD IT PROVIDES TO ACHIEVE FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, AND (B) RECOMMENDING THAT COMMITTEE REPORT FAVORABLE RESOLUTION QUICKLY IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION TO AUTHORIZE SHIPMENT. SENATOR GLENN INDICATED HIS VIEW THAT REFERRAL OF PROPOSED EXPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS WAS PROPER
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EXERCISE OF COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITY.

3. NRC CHAIRMAN HENDRIE AND COMMISSIONERS GILINSKY, KENNEDY AND BRADFORD APPEARED. CHAIRMAN HENDRIE SUMMARIZED HIS VIEW THAT PROPOSED EXPORT MEETS ALL STATUTORY CRITERIA. MOST OF QUESTIONING FOCUSED ON NRC'S GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT FULLY TO CONGRESS RATHER THAN ON

SUBSTANCE OF TARAPUR SUPPLY ISSUES. COMMISSIONER GILINSKY

DID INDICATE, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, THAT HE WOULD HAVE APPROVED EXPORT IF HE CONSIDERED INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS VERY PROBABLE.

4. DR. NYE PRESENTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS ON WHY WITHHOLDING THE PROPOSED EXPORT WOULD SERIOUSLY PREJUDICE OUR NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS INDIA AND NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH NEGOTIATING PERIOD PROVIDED BY LAW. QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR GLENN FOCUSED ON (A) STATUS OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEAVY WATER OFFER AND THE STATUS OF THE HEAVY WATER SUPPLIED IN 1956 FOR CIRUS (E.G., WHETHER IT COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR OR PUT UNDER SAFEGUARDS; (B) PROBABILITY OF INDIA HAVING SAFEGUARDS ON ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES BY THE END OF THE "GRACE PERIOD"; (C) DURATION OF SAFEGUARDS AND US REPROCESSING CONTROLS IN EVENT US DISCONTINUES SUPPLY AND INDIAN VIEW ON THIS AMOUNTING TO A VIOLATION OF OUR AGREEMENT; AND, (D) CONTENT OF ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA AND IMPORTANCE OF FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS.

5. NRDC AND PAUL LEVENTHAL SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY AFTER DR. NYE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE132639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAGUHN:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780219-1041
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780522/aaaaasnr.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 220a4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2581852
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARAPUR HEARINGS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, ENRG, PGOV, IN, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/220a4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014